ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

METHOD FOR GENERATING A STATISTIC FOR PHONE LENGTHS AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE LENGTH OF INDIVIDUAL PHONES FOR SPEECH SYNTHESIS

A statistic for phone lengths is generated by determining the length of individual phones for speech synthesis. A primary statistic is based on primary clusters (for example triphones), and a secondary statistic is based on secondary clusters (for example phonemes of entire words). Both statistics include average phone lengths and, for example, the standard variation of the average phone lengths. During the determination of phone lengths, it is firstly attempted to determine the average phone lengths and standard variation of the average phone lengths by reference to the secondary statistic which is more language-specific. If this is not the case, the primary statistic, which can always be applied, is resorted to. By this two stage method, a phone length is determined which corresponds significantly better to a natural language than has been possible with the conventional single stage method.

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